

WASHINGTON POTATOES



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Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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PROCESSING POTATOES

Processors in Washington and Oregon (excluding Malheur County) used 32,240 thousand cwt of raw potatoes to December 1, 2003, 1,440 thousand cwt less than the 33,680 thousand cwt processed during the same period last year but 2,920 thousand cwt more than the 29,320 thousand cwt processed during the same time frame two years ago. Processing to December 1, 2003 in Washington and Oregon (excluding Malheur County) accounted for 28.9 percent of the 2003 production. Processing in the nine processing states totaled 70,705 thousand cwt of raw potatoes to December 1, 2003, 7.6 percent below the same period last year. Dehydrating usage in the nine processing states, excluding starch and flour, accounted for 14,250 thousand cwt of raw potatoes.

POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING,^{1/} SELECTED STATES, 2002 AND 2003

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO OCT 1	TO NOV 1	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	TO JUN 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 Cwt											
Idaho & Malheur Co., Ore.	2002-03	11,790	20,180	28,380	34,860	41,200	48,600	56,240	63,840	71,280	85,390
	2003-04	9,810	17,290	24,310	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maine 2/	2002-03	-	-	2,230	2,715	3,345	3,905	4,505	5,225	5,905	7,835
	2003-04	-	-	1,585	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wash. & Other Area, Ore.	2002-03	19,500	26,440	33,680	39,490	44,190	51,920	58,710	64,300	71,480	79,110
	2003-04	18,100	24,690	32,240	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other States 3/	2002-03	-	-	12,190	14,865	17,865	20,740	23,580	26,000	29,075	36,705
	2003-04	-	-	12,570	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2002-03	-	-	76,480	91,930	106,600	125,165	143,035	159,365	177,740	209,040
	2003-04	-	-	70,705	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dehydrated 4/	2002-03	-	-	15,670	19,660	23,710	27,950	31,910	36,105	40,455	48,943
	2003-04	-	-	14,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, CO, MI, and WI.

2/ Includes ME grown potatoes only.

3/ CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI in 2002 and 2003.

4/ Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals.

POTATO STOCKS

Potatoes stored in Washington on December 1, 2003 were estimated at 51,000 thousand cwt, 1,000 thousand cwt more than the 50,000 thousand cwt in storage on December 1, 2002 but 2,000 thousand cwt less than the 53,000 thousand cwt in storage on December 1, 2001. Disappearance of the State's crop was 42,150 thousand cwt as of December 1, 2003, compared with 42,400 thousand cwt in 2002.

DECEMBER POTATO STOCKS UP 1 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

The 15 major potato storage States held 267 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 2003, up 1 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2001. Storage accounted for 66 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Stocks by type were 4 percent red, 12 percent round white, 3 percent long white (Shepody), and 81 percent russet, with more reds and round whites and fewer russets than a year ago. Disappearance of 137 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is down 4 percent from the same period last year but 7 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 179 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, down 4 percent from last year but up 1 percent from two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 7 percent from last year and Colorado's stocks are down 13 percent. California's stocks decreased 18 percent from last year but Oregon's stocks increased by 3 percent. Washington's sheds stored 2 percent more than last year and Montana's stocks are up 3 percent.

Central States accounted for 69.8 million cwt of potato stocks this December, up 13 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. North Dakota's stocks gained 21 percent, Ohio jumped 206 percent, Michigan went up 6 percent and Wisconsin increased 3 percent from last year's level. Minnesota's stocks are 17 percent above last year and Nebraska's storages hold 22 percent more than in 2002.

Eastern States stored 18.7 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, up 14 percent from both of the last two years. Maine's stocks were up 7 percent, New York's gained 25 percent, and Pennsylvania stocks increased 57 percent.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION & STOCKS, WASHINGTON & 15 FALL STATES, 1998-03

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS						
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR					
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1	JUN 1 /2
		1,000 Cwt						
WASHINGTON								
1998	93,225	49,000	43,500	36,500	29,500	21,500	14,500	7,500
1999	95,200	48,000	41,000	35,000	28,000	20,500	14,500	7,000
2000	105,000	59,000	52,000	44,500	37,500	29,500	21,500	13,000
2001	94,400	53,000	46,000	40,000	32,500	25,000	18,000	10,000
2002	92,400	50,000	43,500	38,500	30,500	23,000	16,500	9,000
2003	93,150	51,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 STATES 1/								
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,240
2001	387,179	258,750	224,680	192,190	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,821	264,585	231,690	199,320	165,310	125,870	82,940	45,980
2003	404,459	267,160	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ See table below for listing of 15 states. 2/ Stocks not available prior to 1998.

PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON DECEMBER 1, 2002 AND DECEMBER 1, 2003 1/

STATE	CROP OF 2002			CROP OF 2003		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DECEMBER 1, 2002	DECEMBER 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DECEMBER 1, 2003	DECEMBER 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	4,264	3,300	77	3,444	2,700	78
Colorado	27,885	20,500	74	23,652	17,800	75
Idaho	133,385	92,000	69	123,180	86,000	70
Maine	16,960	12,600	74	17,030	13,500	79
Michigan	13,878	7,900	57	15,015	8,400	56
Minnesota	18,700	12,000	64	22,330	14,000	63
Montana	3,224	3,100	96	3,392	3,200	94
Nebraska	8,611	5,500	64	9,660	6,700	69
New York	5,500	2,400	44	6,510	3,000	46
N. Dakota	23,460	16,000	68	26,880	19,400	72
Ohio	903	85	9	1,290	260	20
Oregon	24,936	17,500	70	20,991	18,000	86
Pennsylvania	2,590	1,400	54	3,915	2,200	56
Washington	92,400	50,000	54	93,150	51,000	55
Wisconsin	31,125	20,300	65	34,020	21,000	62
15 STATES	407,821	264,585	65	404,459	267,160	66

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2003 totaled 28.3 million cwt.

FALL POTATOES - PRODUCTION FORECAST DECEMBER 1, 2003

States	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres		Cwt		1,000 Cwt		
WINTER	15.7	14.3	268	282	4,115	4,206	4,027
SPRING	86.1	82.9	280	269	21,814	23,294	22,305
SUMMER	59.1	60.5	310	320	18,209	17,985	19,360
FALL:							
California	8.2	8.4	520	410	1,424	4,264	3,444
Colorado	71.5	65.7	390	360	21,357	27,885	23,652
Idaho, All	373.0	358.0	358	344	120,200	133,385	123,180
10 SW Counties	27.0	25.0	455	465	10,350	12,285	11,625
Other Areas	346.0	333.0	350	335	109,850	121,100	111,555
Indiana	2.8	2.7	260	250	928	728	675
Maine	64.0	65.5	265	260	16,430	16,960	17,030
Massachusetts	3.2	2.8	255	275	742	816	770
Michigan	45.5	45.5	305	330	13,950	13,878	15,015
Minnesota	55.0	58.0	340	385	18,425	18,700	22,330
Montana	10.4	10.6	310	320	3,296	3,224	3,392
Nebraska	21.8	23.0	395	420	8,400	8,611	9,660
Nevada	7.6	8.0	350	415	2,340	2,660	3,320
New Mexico	4.0	4.0	400	400	1,428	1,600	1,600
New York	22.0	21.7	250	300	5,942	5,500	6,510
North Dakota	102.0	112.0	230	240	26,400	23,460	26,880
Ohio	4.2	4.3	215	300	1,097	903	1,290
Oregon, ALL	49.8	42.6	501	493	20,730	24,936	20,991
Malheur County	8.0	5.8	400	415	3,690	3,200	2,407
Other Areas	41.8	36.8	520	505	17,040	21,736	18,584
Pennsylvania	14.0	13.5	185	290	3,173	2,590	3,915
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	235	300	140	118	150
South Dakota	1.1	1.0	300	340	648	330	340
Utah	0.8	1.0	305	335	345	244	335
Washington	165.0	162.0	560	575	94,400	92,400	93,150
Wisconsin	83.0	81.0	375	420	31,955	31,125	34,020
TOTAL FALL	1,109.4	1,091.8	373	377	393,750	414,317	411,649
UNITED STATES	1,270.3	1,249.5	362	366	437,888	459,802	457,341

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION DOWN LESS THAN 1 PERCENT FROM NOVEMBER

Production of fall potatoes for 2003 is forecast at 412 million cwt, down less than 1 percent from the November forecast and 1 percent below last year. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is down 2 percent from last year but 2 percent above two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 377 cwt per acre, 1 cwt below last month but 4 cwt above last year. Production estimates are generally higher this year in the Central and Eastern States but lower in the West.

The nine Western States production is forecast at 273 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year but 3 percent above 2001. Acreage harvested, at 660,300 acres, decreased 4 percent from last year. The average yield of 414 cwt per acre is down 7 cwt. Production decreased in 4 of the 9 Western States. California's yield is down due to hot weather and problems with seed quality. Colorado's production fell 15 percent as farmers reduced planted acreage to conserve underground water supplies following drought conditions during the past two years. Idaho's production decreased 8 percent from last year due to above normal summer temperatures which adversely affected tuber development. In Oregon, dry conditions during June and July reduced yield and tuber sizes. Utah has the largest percentage production increase, up 37 percent from last year. Production in Nevada and Montana increased 25 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Washington's production is 1 percent above last year, while New Mexico's production remains unchanged.

The eight Central States production is forecast at 110 million cwt, up 13 percent from last year and 8 percent above 2001. Harvested area, estimated at 327,500 acres, is up 4 percent, while the average yield of 337 cwt per acre is up 27 cwt from a year ago. Production is above last year for all Central States except Indiana, where heavy rains during July caused ponding and flooding in many fields. Hot and dry weather in August contributed to a lower quality crop. Production increases range from 3 percent in South Dakota to 43 percent in Ohio. Minnesota is up 19 percent, North Dakota increased 15 percent, Wisconsin rose 9 percent, Michigan went up 8 percent, and Nebraska increased 12 percent.

The five Eastern States production is forecast at 28.4 million cwt, up 9 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. Area for harvest totaled 104,000 acres, virtually unchanged from last year. The average yield rose to 273 cwt per acre, 22 cwt above last season. Production increases occurred in 4 of the 5 Eastern States. Pennsylvania holds the largest increase, 51 percent higher, due to drought conditions in 2002 which made yields lower than usual. Rhode Island production is up 27 percent, New York rose 18 percent, and Maine increased less than 1 percent. Massachusetts shows a decrease of 6 percent from last year's production.

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 267 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.4 percent or approximately 6.4 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.2 percent or approximately 11.2 million cwt.

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